

**GENETIC POLYMORPHISMS OF ESTROGEN RECEPTOR ALPHA  
ASSOCIATED WITH FAVORABLE HDL CHOLESTEROL  
RESPONSE TO HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY**

**Abstract**

A method of screening a subject for increased likelihood of having a favorable response to estrogen replacement therapy comprises detecting the presence of the rare form of at least one estrogen receptor alpha polymorphism in the subject, the presence of the estrogen receptor alpha polymorphism indicating the subject is more likely to have a favorable response to estrogen replacement therapy (*e.g.*, with respect to cardiovascular health, heart disease, and/or HDL levels).